

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4549

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: TRADE UNION ECUMENISM; OPPOSING FRENCH VIEWS

1. SUMMARY: FORCE OUVRIERE AND CGT SPOKESMEN ON 29 OCTOBER EXPRESSED SHARPLY CONFLICTING VIEWS ON CURRENT CGT/CGIL BID FOR SOME SORT OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE'S FREE TRADE UNIONS. THE CGT STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT TRADE UNION UNITY IN WESTERN EUROPE IS ALREADY IN PROCESS AND IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY TRADE UNION LEADERS OF DIFFERENT AFFILIATIONS MEETING IN GENEVA IN JANUARY. WARNING AGAINST WFTU "INFILTRATION" AND DIVISIVE TACTICS, FORCE OUVRIERE REAFFIRMED ITS DETERMINATION TO RESIST ALL SUCH ATTEMPTS.
END SUMMARY.

2. TWO OPPOSING VIEWS OF COOPERATION AMONG WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS OF DIFFERING INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS WERE VOICED THIS WEEK BY CGT SECRETARY GENERAL GEORGES SEGUY AND FORCE OUVRIERE CONFEDERAL SECRETARY JEAN ROUZIER.

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3. SEGUY ON 29 OCTOBER TOLD A PARIS PRESS LUNCHEON THAT THE UNIFICATION OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE HAD ALREADY BEGUN, AS WITNESSED BY THE RESOLUTION FAVORING AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE ETUC ADOPTED BY THE VIII WFTU CONGRESS AT VARNA. BOASTING SUPPORT BY THE BRITISH TUC AND THE GERMAN DGB, SEGUY SAID THAT HE HAD NOT INTENTION OF SIMPLY LETTING THE TUC PLEAD HIS CASE FOR ENTRY INTO THE ETUC. BEFORE ENTERING, THE CGT WANTS TO DISCUSS A COMMON PROGRAM ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. THIS, SAID SEGUY, WOULD TEST THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. FINALLY, SEGUY ANNOUNCED THAT THE LEADERS OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATIONS OF ALL AFFILIATIONS WOULD MEET AT GENEVA NEXT JANUARY TO EXPLORE FURTHER THIS WILL TO COOPERATE.

4. ALSO ON 29 OCTOBER, FORCE OUVRIERE ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE REPRODUCING IN FULL THE TEXT OF AN "F.O. HEBDO" ARTICLE BY JEAN ROUZIER ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACTION TAKEN AT THE VIII CONGRESS OF THE WFTU. AFTER NOTING A SIMILAR, THOUGH LESS WELL-RECEIVED EFFORT BY CFDT SECRETARY GENERAL EDMOND MAIRE AT THE RECENT WCL CONGRESS AT EVIAN, ROUZIER DISCUSSED THE CGT/CGIL DECLARATION OF INTENT TO SEEK ADMISSION TO ETUC. ROUZIER SAW IN THIS THE ENTERING WEDGE OF A STRATEGY OF "INFILTRATION AND ENVELOPMENT" AIMED AT EXTENDED WFTU INFLUENCE IN ORDER TO BETTER SERVE THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE "SOVIET BLOC." POINTING OUT THE INHERENT THREAT TO FREE TRADE UNIONISM, ROUZIER REAFFIRMED FO SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LAST JULY, A RESOLUTION WARNING AGAINST SUCH DIVISIVE TACTICS.

5. COMMENT: ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT, PUSHED TO A SHOWDOWN, FO WOULD WITHDRAW FROM ETUC RATHER THAN ACCEPT CGT/CGIL AFFILIATION. IRWIN

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